



the RARA RAG

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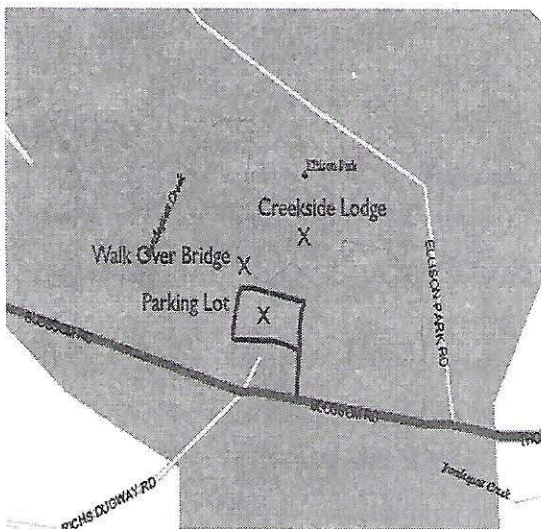
RaRa Picnic, Ellison Park

George Platteter, AA2FO

It's that time again. Yes, its time to think picnic. Please join us again this year at Ellison Park, Creekside Lodge, on Saturday, June 21st, after 11:00 AM... Ellison Park is on Blossom Rd. between Browncroft Blvd. and Blossom Rd. exits on Rt. 390. There is a sign at the park entrance showing the location of Creekside Lodge.

Look forward to a relaxed picnic with your fellow hams and significant others. Jon Dickason, N2JAC, has agreed again this year to mastermind the transmitter hunt. So bring you HT radios. RaRa will furnish the meat, rolls, condiments, and plate wares.

Come and have a great time.

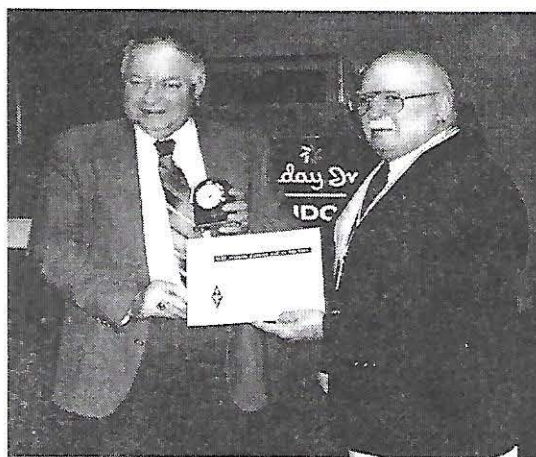


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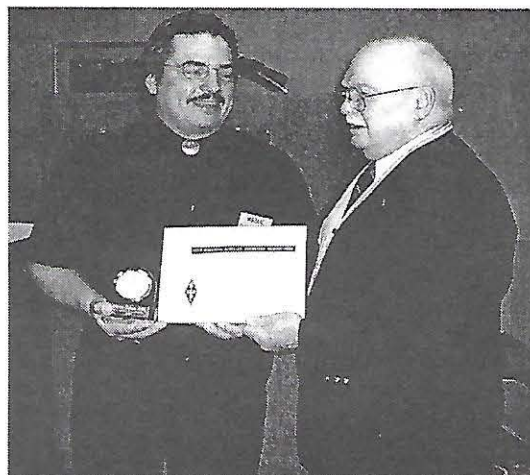
ARRL AWARDS

Harold Smith K2HC

At the annual banquet, Bob Bennett, W3WCQ, of Baltimore, MD was awarded the Atlantic Division 2003 Amateur of the Year Award.



Ron Polityka, WB3AAL of Reading, PA was awarded the Atlantic Division 2003 Technical Achievement Award. We need to see some Rochester area names next year. Nominations close April 1, 2004.



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Rochester Hamfest Review

Harold Smith, K2HC, General Chairman

The 69th annual Rochester Hamfest combined with the Atlantic Division Convention is now history. The 70th annual event is scheduled for June 4-5-6, 2004. Mark your calendar today.

We suffered the same fate, rain on Saturday, as happened at another major eastern hamfest. Opening day Friday was cloudy and cool. Many people arriving early were on hand.

General attendance was down due to the Saturday rain. The number of exhibitors inside the Dome Center increased, perhaps for the same reason.

Most of our out of town guests stayed at the Holiday Inn Rochester South, hamfest hotel headquarters. The hotel was filled to capacity Friday night. Other nights were nearly as busy.

Many folks wondered where the major Japanese radio manufacturers were, none being in attendance. They stayed home. You can fix that situation. Get busy with your email. Send messages to the companies you want to see. Ask them why they were not at Rochester. Tell them you want to see them in 2004. Your messages mean more than you can imagine. Keep sending them new messages every few weeks. They will get your message loud and clear.

The Rochester VE team reports 40 people tested in the two day session. 34 received new or upgraded licenses. Congratulations.

Bring And Buy A Success

Harold Smith, K2HC

Bring and Buy—the new concept was by all means a success. Approximately \$1,600 worth of equipment was sold at the hamfest using this new method. You bring your treasure to the hamfest. It is displayed and potentially sold while you enjoy the hamfest. At the end of the day you return to collect the proceeds—or your treasure—if it did not sell. Many happy folks went home with their pockets jingling.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
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RIT BLIMP PROJECT

Jon Arney WB3LHI

Amateur radio reached new heights at the hamfest this year with the demonstration of the Tiger Blimp by members of the RIT ARC, K2GXT. The organizer and head of the RIT Blimp Project, Mr. Alvin Spivey, readied the blimp for launch in the Dome Arena Friday morning. The faculty advisor for project, Jon WB3LHI, launched a demonstration flight around noon on Friday that lasted all of 30 seconds, ending in a crash at the RaRa booth on the south side of the Arena! However, with able guidance from Mr. Spivey, a longer, more successful flight was made that included live video from the blimp, transmitted by ATV to a receiver at the RIT Blip booth. The blimp drew quite a crowd, and the blimp team enjoyed sharing their work and their expertise with visitors. Information about the ATV from blimps and model airplanes was passed out, and additional information can be had directly from Jon WB3LHI by sending an e-mail to LArney@rochester.rr.com.

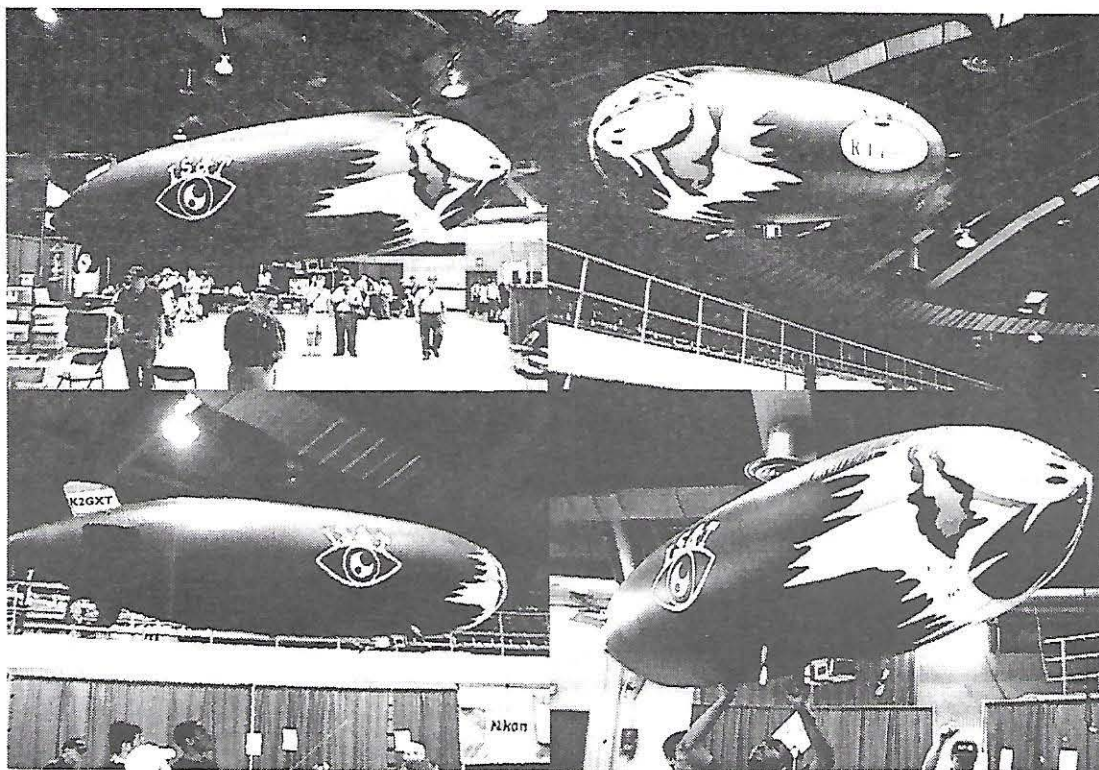
Several visitors to the booth who said they had experience flying radio control airplanes were given a chance to fly the blimp. Most experienced RC airplane flyers had little diffi-

culty adjusting to the blimp, and only a few crashes occurred as a result of blimp flight instruction. The most spectacular was when Jon WB3LHI tried to teach George AA2F0 how to fly the blimp. The blind leading the blind! It took a half hour, and special help from the vendor selling the light extension masts to get the blimp untangled from the ceiling of the Arena!

By Saturday morning, a competent group of blimp operators arrived to save the day, and a lot of good flying took place. K2GXT club members Jason Faulring KB2WLK (Club President) and Paul Skudlarek KC2FQD (Info. Tech. major) worked on the Blimp project with Alvin and provided technical expertise to visitors at the Blimp booth all day Saturday. Alvin and Jason are quite accomplished pilots, but they allowed Jon another chance to do some flying after most of the crowd had died down on Saturday afternoon. Jon only had one additional crash, but that was while he was trying to instruct a 5 year old visitor to the hamfest. We can forgive that one!

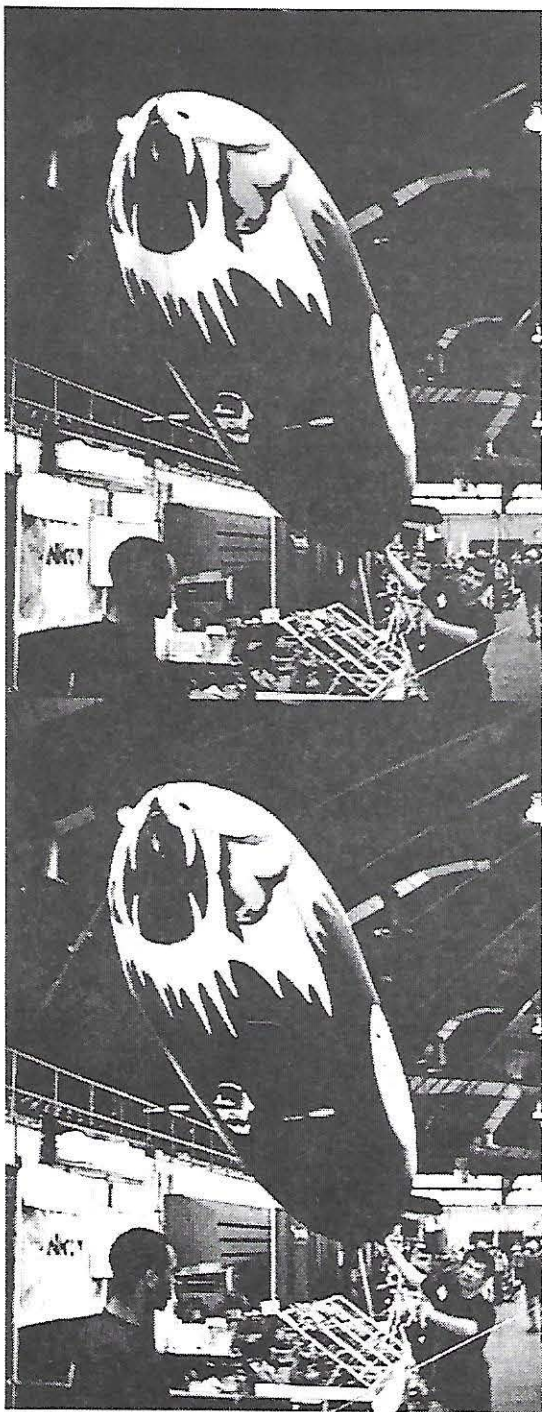
After the hamfest, the members of the Blimp team expressed their sincere appreciation to RaRa, to Harold K2HC, and to the other hamfest organizers for providing an

COUNTINUED BLIMP PAGE 4



RARA RAG 3

opportunity for the RIT students to participate in this year's program. Close ties between RaRa and K2GXT are doing these students a lot of good as they grow professionally.



THINK AMATEUR RADIO

RARA RAG 4

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago,

June 1983

Ed Gable K2MP

The pop is cold and the hots are hot as cooked by incoming President Bill Thiel, K2KGE, at the site of RaRa's annual picnic, then June 4th, at Powder Mill Park's Wadhams lodge. President Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that the Board approved RaRa's application to become an ARRL Special Service Club. In what must be close to a record, the June RaRa Calendar of events had 13 items scheduled for June.

Editor Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, felt the proposed "No-Code" licensing arguments so important that he devoted two full pages to arguments for and against. They make good reading even today and in retrospect were well thought out comments.

Writing for the RDXA, Fred Gern, KB2SE, announced their meeting, at the Colonial Restaurant venue, to be Gus Becker, W2PHT, speaking on the history of the RDXA. RaRa advertised for a membership chairman for the 83/84 season.

WNY SM Bill Thompson, W2MTA, announced a leadership meeting to be held on June 11th in Amsterdam, NY. It was announced the Jason Layton, K2BYL/AAR2ET, of Hilton, was appointed Director of NYS Army MARS, with 200+ members.

RRRA reported their slate of officers for the coming year as Howie Davies, N2CUN as VP, Alan Komenski, AC2K, as Secretary and Joe Phillips, W2DHV as Treasurer. After elections a transmitter hunt will be conducted by President-Designate George Walker, K2CEI, with a 40 watt VHF amplifier as first prize. (I still have it - Ed)

The Rochester VHF Group announced plans to operate from a 2150 foot site near Naples for the June VHF contest. Ops were Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, with WA2YTM, SM6CZZ/W2 and WA3PXH/2.

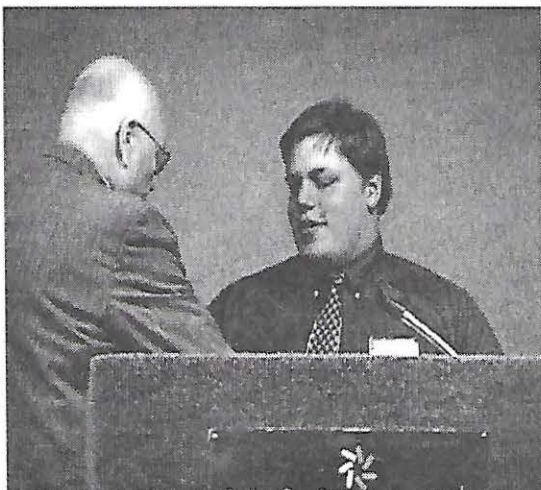
Teleconferencing continues on the 145.11 and 146.79 repeaters with Ron, K2RJ as local net control. This session was Joe Reisert, K1JR, on antenna design.

From the Want Ads you could buy a Den-tron Amplifier From Ron Benjamin, W2GTE. DX Communications, of West Seneca, NY, remained a long time advertiser.

3rd Annual Memorial Scholarship Awarded at Hamfest Banquet

Dick Goslee K2VCZ

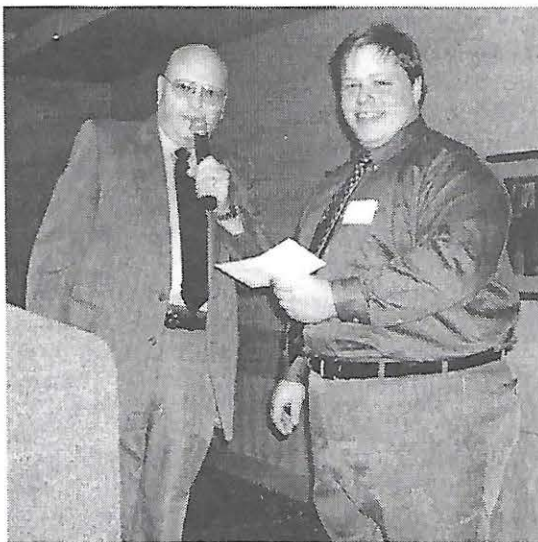
This year's Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship was awarded to John R. McIntyre, KC2JSJ. John, the son of long-standing member Marvin McIntyre, K2ZAA, will be graduating this month from Irondequoit High School. He will be attending RIT to study Electrical Engineering. In addition to the RARA Memorial Scholarship John is the recipient of the Reis Memorial Scholarship and the RIT President's Scholarship. John hopes to become an Electrical Engineer for a relatively small production company where he can become closely involved with the Production Team so he can see his ideas become reality.



Past winners of the Scholarship have included Kellie Gauvin, KB2CHC in 2001 and Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE. Applications are available from RaRa anytime during the year and they must be submitted no later than April 15 must. The winner is announced by May 15 and the Scholarship is presented at the Hamfest Banquet each year.

The RaRa Memorial Scholarship was started with donations in memory of William Buchan, W2OMV, William Resch, K4VOS, and A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF. These donations along with other recent donations and the RaRa Life Member Funds are invested in a Money Market Fund with the proceeds being

used to fund the scholarship each year. Additional Tax Exempt Donations (RaRa is a 501 (c) 3 corporation) may be made at any time by sending them to P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333. If the donations are in memory of a Silent Key please so indicate on the donation.



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RaRa LICENSE CLASS

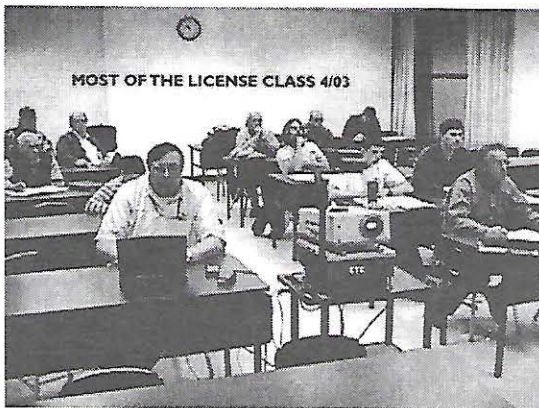
Ray Pickens WA2MYG

The RaRa License Class has a new home as of April 7, 2003. Jon Arney WB3LHI (a faculty member and trustee of K2GXT the RIT ARC) has arranged class rooms in building #76 on the RIT Campus for the license class, and rooms for any other Amateur Radio Clubs who wish to take advantage of RIT's generosity, a room for the RaRa VE team, and a room for RaRa Board of Directors meetings.

As of May 12, 2003 we had only nine students left in the CW/Tech class, three with three dropouts in the General Theory class, and two with two dropouts in the Extra Theory class. The scheduled May 19, 2003 class only VE session was cancelled in favor of the scheduled RaRa Saturday AM May 17, 2003 session room 2150 in building #76 RIT.

On May 17th nine students took the Technician Theory two of which failed, with three taking and passing Element 1 (5 WPM CW). Two students took and passed the General Theory with one other student taking and passing the General Theory at an earlier VE session. On May 17th one student took and passed the Extra Theory with other student taking and passing the Extra Theory at an earlier VE session.

Amateur Radio License classes will resume on Monday September 8, 2003 at 19:00 in room 1230 Building # 76 on the RIT Campus.



Silent Keys

Francis W. DiStefano WB2DZF 04/16/2003
Charles R. Hilliker W7KIV (ex-K2IML)
01/13/2003

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WW2 Battle Re-enactments

KC2JTU Gib Buckbee

Gib Buckbee, of Canandaigua, has been involved with WW2 Living History and WW2 Battle Re-enactments for 5 years, and is looking for additional people, especially HAM Radio enthusiasts, who would be interested in forming a WW2 Signal Company, in this area.

This would involve displays of old WW2 radio, field telephone, telegraph, equipment etc., and participation as radio/telephone operators/technicians.

Additionally included would be any other functions which the Signal Corps were involved with. This unit would also provide communications for the tactical battle scenarios. Oh yes, you may also be required to fight, so bring along that old M1 in the closet.

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Please contact:

Gib Buckbee E-Mail: gbuckbee@frontiernet.net
(home) ckbee@us.ibm.com (work)
Telephone: (585) 394-5527

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FOR SALE: T-50H Aluma heavy duty Tower. 50 feet tall, rated for 100 Mile winds and tilts to work on the antenna. Retail for \$2,500. Asking \$2,250. Detailed technical specs at <http://www.alumatower.com>. Also, Yaesu G-1000SDX heavy duty antenna rotor. Retail for \$469 + S&H. Asking \$400. Buy both For \$2,600!!! . Call Esteban Piva N2MLG (585) 746-5118.

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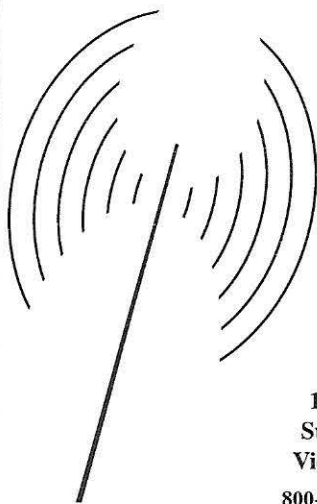
FOR SALE: Icom Station: IC-761 transceiver, SP-20 ext. speaker, SM-10 desk mike, AT-500 auto tuner, IC-2KL auto amplifier and power supply. All solid state, Very good condition, NO mods. With books and boxes. \$2000.00 for all 6 Pieces (585)-229-5470 Len WA2ZNC wa2znc@juno.com

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